

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED FISNICS REDGOLD

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Impatiens hawkeri W. Bull (hybrid)

Variety Denomination:

5 Fisnics Redgold

Background of the Invention

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *New Guinea Impatiens*, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri W.Bull*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Fisnics Redgold'.

10 'Fisnics Redgold' is a product of a planned breeding program and originated from a hybridization made by the inventor, Birgit C. Hofmann, in a controlled breeding program in Hillscheid, Germany, in 2000.

The female parent was the commercial variety 'Celebration Light Salmon' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 12,087 under the denomination 'Balcelisow'), characterized by a light 15 salmon colored flowers with white centers, deep green foliage with sometimes yellow variegation visible along the midrib, and with about medium sized plant habit.

The male parent was a proprietary seedling designated no. 98-4128-1 (unpatented), having very large, purple flowers, dark green leaves with red veins, and small to medium sized plant habit.

20 'Fisnics Redgold' was discovered and selected as one flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by the inventor in April 2001 in a greenhouse in Galdar, Canary Islands, Spain.

The first act of vegetative or asexual reproduction of 'Fisnics Redgold' was accomplished when cuttings were taken from the initial selection in July 2001 in a

controlled environment in Galdar, Gran Canaria, Spain, by, or under the supervision the inventor.

Horticultural examination of plants grown from these cuttings initiated in the spring of 2002 in Hillscheid, Germany, and continuing thereafter, has demonstrated that 5 the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for 'Fisnics Redgold' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

'Fisnics Redgold' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and day length, without, however, any variation in genotype.

10 The following observations, measurements, and comparisons describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany under greenhouse conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be 15 basic characteristics of 'Fisnics Redgold', which in combination distinguish this impatiens as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. red to cherry red flower color;
2. large to very large flowers with distinctly lobed petals;
3. deep green, glossy foliage with yellow variegation, not always visible;
4. medium sized or larger growth habit, v-shaped, moderately dense; and
5. medium to moderately late flowering response.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'Fisnics Redgold' is the variety 'Kiotoa' commercially known as 'Painted Paradise Red' (unpatented).

In comparison to 'Kiotoa', 'Fisnics Red' has larger flowers of a more bluish-red hue, weaker and less often developing variegation of leaves, and more vigorous and less tight growth characteristics.

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Brief Description of the Drawing

The accompanying photographic drawing shows typical flower and foliage characteristics of 'Fisnics Redgold' with colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this type. The photographic drawing shows a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Fisnics Redgold'.

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Detailed Botanical Description

In the following description color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (RHS). The color values were determined indoors from plants grown in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany, under greenhouse conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

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The description is based on plants which were planted as rooted cuttings in 12 cm pots in late February 2003, and then grown in the greenhouse at 16° C minimum temperature. Most observations and measurements were made after the beginning of flowering in mid May, when the plants were about 12 weeks old.

PLANT

20 General appearance and form :

Plant habit: Medium or larger in size, initially tight, later only moderately tight structure, with upright slanting branches (v-shaped), freely branching; growth is indeterminate, though weak after beginning of flowering

Height: 15.3 cm

Width: 29.7 cm

Number of branches: 14-16

5 Length of branches: 9 - 11 cm

Internode length: 3.0 - 4.0 cm

Diameter of branches: 6 - 7 mm

Stem color: Brownish, from RHS 181 A to RHS 183 C

Propagation: Terminal tips for cuttings

10 Rooting: Roots initiate in about 18 days at 22° C, from sticking to
transplanting

Cultivation time: It takes about 10-11 weeks of growing time to produce a
marketable flowering plant in a 12 cm container

Foliage :

15 Leaf arrangement: Primarily in whorls

Shape of leaf: Elliptic, relatively large, with acute base and acuminate tip,

Surface: Glossy and smooth,

Margin: Slightly serrated, fine ciliation

Leaf length: 13.0 cm on average

20 Leaf width: 4.5 – 4.75 cm

Upper surface color: Deep medium green, with weak variegation, mature leaves
between RHS 137 A and RHS 139 A young leaves RHS
137 A

Variegation Relatively weak, usually developed during the summer months,
but not at lower light intensity in spring or fall: a greenish-yellow
stripe along the midrib, color RHS 150 A

Veins on upper surface: Pale light green, RHS 145 C

5 Lower surface color: Light green, RHS 139 C (both young and mature leaves)

Veins on lower surface: RHS 181 D

Petiole size: 10-20 mm in length, 2.5 - 3 mm in diameter

Petiole color: Upper side dark-red, RHS 184 D, lower side RHS 181 D

INFLORESCENCE

10 Flowering response: About 10 weeks after planting of rooted cuttings

Flowering season: Generally indeterminate, mainly from March to October,
depending on light intensity

Flower:

Number of flowers per node: 6-8, in various stages of development

15 Form of corolla: Single, 5 petals

Corolla shape: Nearly round, with the petals overlapping, mostly flat

Corolla size:

Average length: 80 mm

Average width: 78 mm

20 Depth of corolla: 10 mm

Shape of petals: Cordate, relatively deeply lobed at the top end

Top petal: 33 mm long, 53 mm wide

Lateral petals: 38 mm long, 39 mm wide

Lower petals: 40 mm long, 44 mm wide

25 Texture: Smooth, velvety

Aspect: Flat

Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters): Cherry red

Main color of upper surface: A slightly more bluish hue than RHS 46 B to 46 C

Eye zone and markings: Weak, bluish-pink at the base of the petals RHS 74

5 B to 74 C, a narrow stripe of the same color may be visible dividing the upper petal

Color of lower surface: Light red, RHS 50 A

Spur color: Dark purple-brown, RHS 185 A

Spur shape and size: Downwardly curved, 62 mm long, 3 mm in diameter at the
10 flower end

Pedicel size: 4.5 cm in length, 2 mm in diameter

Pedicel color: Brownish pink, RHS 181 D

Flower bud: Ovoid shape, 25 mm in length, 16 mm in diameter, main
color RHS 46 C

15 Reproductive organs:

Stamens: 5 in number, fused, upper surface color is mainly RHS 46 C

Anthers: Hooded

Pollen: Whitish-yellow, about RHS 8 D

Style and stigma: 5 in number, very short, pale yellow, about RHS 150 D

20 Ovary: 5-celled, 5 mm long, surface color green, RHS 139 B

Disease/Pest Resistance/Susceptibility: No observations to date